



United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/304,406	05/04/1999	RALPH E. SIPPLE	33012/263/10	9618
7590 04/07/2004			EXAMINER	
CHARLES A JOHNSON			LONSBERRY, HUNTER B	
UNISYS CORPORATION P O BOX 64942			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MS 4772 ST PAUL, MN		,	2611	10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Ograd4.406 Examiner Hunter B. Lonsberry 2811 The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Expansion of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.135(a). In no event, however, may a rapty be finely filed after SX (b) MoNTH's from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum stabulatory principle with the advancement ASHONDRO SU.S.C. \$130). Failur to eyeld within the soci or advanced pariod for reply its period for reply its specified above, the maximum stabulatory principle SX (6) MONTH's from the mailing date of this communication. Failur to eyeld within the soci or advanced pariod for reply its patialute, susan as placed to the board ASHONDRO SU.S.C. \$130. Failur to eyeld within the soci or advanced pariod for reply its patialute, susan as placed to the social and patients of the communication, when if from \$10 \text{ first of the mailing date of this communication, which is application in a patient than adjustment. \$20 \text{ First of the communication, which is a patient to the mailing date of this communication, which is a patient to the mailing date of this communication. Status Status Status All Responsive to communication(s) filed on \$12 \text{ January 2004}\$. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under \$Ex parts Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) \$1.20 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) \$1.20 is/are allowed. Cl		Application No.	(Applicant/o)					
### Examiner Art Unit 2511 The MAILIND DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Repty A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Examine of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13(a). In no event, however, may a reply be five data after \$10 (s) MONTHS from the amaging date of this communication.	•	Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Hunter 8. Lonsberry 2911 - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Elementor of term may be evaluate used the previous of 3 CPR 1.13(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Elementor of term may be evaluated used the previous of 3 CPR 1.13(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Elementor of term pay be sevilated above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, a reply within the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, a reply within the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, a reply within the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, a reply within the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, a reply within the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, a reply within the statistic pays and will depth (50) (MoNTH) file the resulting of the statistic pays and will depth (50) (MoNTH) file the resulting date of this communication. File period for reply specified days, a reply within the statistic pays and will day for the resulting date of this communication. The period for reply specified days will be a statistic pays and will depth a reply filed, may reduce any sent and statistic pays and statistic pays and will be communication. The period for reply specified to communication (s) filed on 12 January 2004. The Responsive to communication (s) filed on 12 January 2004. This action is FINAL. 2D is fare produced in the mailing date of this communication. This action is FINAL. 2D is fare the produced on the reply filed on the mailing date of the scattering and the communication. The period for Reply filed on 12 January 2004. The claim(s) 1220 is/are pending in the application and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9 The specification is objected to by the Examiner. The period for the period for the produced pays and the peri	0.00	09/304,406	SIPPLE ET AL.					
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Estamblian of time may be available under the provision of 37 CFR 1.13(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after 5X (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication of 37 CFR 1.13(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after 5X (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication of the provision of the provision of the state of the communication of the provision of the state of the communication of the provision of the state of the communication of the provision of the state of the communication, even if sinely within the set or estanded pariod for reply will, by adults, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.0. § 133). Any reply received by the Office date than this removal after the mailing date of this communication, even if sinely filed, may reduce any seasonal patient term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(s). Status 1) ☑ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004. 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ This action is non-final. 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) ☑ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are allowed. 6) ☑ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are allowed. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are allowed. 8) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are allowed. 10 ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9 ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10 ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers c) ☐ None	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be evaluable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.38(a). In no event, however, may a rapiy be timely filed If the period for realy specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication. Fallow be reply whith the set or excented period for regival by a third, may be the application to make a period and sort an application for some abandors (5) style. SI SIX (5) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication. Fallow be reply whith the set or excented period for regival by a third sort in application to make mailing date of this communication. Fallow be reply whith the set or excented period for regival by a third, may not a set of the communication, even if timely filed, may review any search platent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) ME esponsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) is are objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.12(d). 11) The oath or teclaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). 3) All b)								
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Ederbilds of the may be similarliable under the provisions of 37 CPR 1.13(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply verified have is less then think (70) days, a right with the studiety minimum of think (30) days will be considered timely. Fallure to reply within the set or odendrad period for reply well, by that studiety minimum of think (30) days will be considered timely. Fallure to reply within the set or odendrad period for reply well, by thatilds, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office use the than there emplains after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any search patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected to. 8) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected to. 8) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected to. 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The order of calcaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some c) None of: 1. Certified c	The MAILING DATE of this communication a Period for Reply	appears on the cover sheet with	the correspondence address					
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004. 2a)□ This action is FINAL. 2b)⊠ This action is non-final. 3)□ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4)☑ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5)□ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6)☑ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 7)□ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8)□ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8)□ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10)□ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)□ accepted or b)□ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11)□ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12)□ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a)□ All b)□ Some * c)□ None of: 1.□ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2.□ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. in Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reflection of the following specified above, the maximum statutory perion of the period for reply within the set or extended period for reply within the set or extende	N. 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (3 iod will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS tute, cause the application to become ABAN	v be timely filed 10) days will be considered timely. S from the mailing date of this communication. DONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).					
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ This action is non-final. 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) ☑ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☑ Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	Status							
3 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4 Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5 Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6 Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7 Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8 Claim(s) is/are objected to. 9 The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 4 Disposition Papers 9 The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 4 Disposition Papers 9 The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. 4 Application Papers 9 The objected to a complete the drawing(s) is objected to be applicated to a complete the drawing(s) is objected to be application of the drawing(s) is ob	1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12	? January 2004.						
closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4)	2a) This action is FINAL . 2b) ⊠ T	<u> </u>						
Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) filed on	3) Since this application is in condition for allow	☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is						
4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.							
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☒ Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) □ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) □ Claim(s) is/are objected to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) □ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) □ accepted or b) □ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) □ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) □ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) □ All b) □ Some * c) □ None of: 1. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. □ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	Disposition of Claims							
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) is/are objected to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are pending in the applicati	☑ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are pending in the application.						
6 Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected. 7 Claim(s)	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withd	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
7 Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8 Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9 The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10 The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	· <u> </u>	Dio Claim(s) is/are allowed.						
Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	<u> </u>	_						
Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.								
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and	d/or election requirement.						
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	Application Papers							
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.							
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some colon None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.								
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.								
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.								
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action of form P1O-152.							
a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s)	Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119							
	 a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority docume 2. Certified copies of the priority docume 3. Copies of the certified copies of the papplication from the International Burn 	ents have been received. ents have been received in Apportionity documents have been refeau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	olication No ceived in this National Stage					
1) IXI Notice of References Cited (PTC-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTC-413)	Attachment(s)							
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date.								
5) Abotion of Indian Ameliantian (DTO 450)	3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/	(08) 5) Notice of Info	rmal Patent Application (PTO-152)					

Art Unit: 2611

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,583,561 to Baker in view of U.S. Patent 6,418,557-B1 to Otani.

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Baker discloses in Figure 1, a Video on Demand system which supplies a video program to a subscriber receiver 22, a transaction server (VOD server 12) is connected to a video library 10 that stores VOD programs (column 6, line 38-45), video server 12 receives video requests from users (column 7, lines 28-55) retrieves the requested video from the video library 10 and passes it on to the network interface which in turn transfers it to the user's receiver 22, each video event or stream is assigned its own set of memory buffers for the temporary storage and synchronization of the video data, the data is retrieved from disks 10 and stored in main storage unit 38 prior to transmission (column 7, line 45-55, column 9, lines 2-57), the video servers may support multiple titles for transmission to multiple users (column 11, line 58-column 12, line 6).

Art Unit: 2611

Baker does not disclose a plurality of video servers coupled to the transaction server or a middleware environment.

Otani discloses in Figures 1 and 2, a number of VOD servers 40-m which are coupled to request control unit 50 via cable 70 which processes requests from user set top boxes and turns on power to more VOD servers when needed (column 5, lines 16-36, column 6, lines 16-57, column 7, line 39-column 8, line 9).

The examiner takes official notice that the use of middleware to enable two separate applications to exchange data between one another via a 3rd set of software is well known in the art.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Baker to include multiple VOD servers coupled to a transaction server as taught by Otani in order to reduce the server load, by powering on additional servers when needed, and to utilize middleware to enable the transaction server applications to interface with the VOD server applications in order to enable access to the user billing records.

Regarding claim 3, Baker discloses that video server 12 may be a mainframe system (column 8, lines 43-51) and discloses in Figure 3 that the mainframe (video server 12) may be coupled to a transaction server 54 (control server 54, column 10, lines 38-63), additionally the mainframe can act as a transaction server in of itself (column 7, lines 28-55). Otani discloses in Figures 1 and 2, a number of VOD servers 40-m which are coupled to request control unit 50 via cable 70 which processes

Art Unit: 2611

requests from user set top boxes and turns on power to more VOD servers when needed (column 5, lines 16-36, column 6, lines 16-57, column 7, line 39-column 8, line 9).

Regarding claim 4, Baker discloses that video server 12 may be a Unisys mainframe system (column 8, lines 43-51).

Regarding claim 5, Baker discloses that the transaction server may spool the video (column 7, line 45-55) and that the format can be MPEG 2 (column 7, lines 9-16).

Regarding claims 6, Baker discloses in Figure 1, a Video on Demand system which supplies a video program to a subscriber receiver 22, a transaction server (VOD server 12) is connected to a video library 10 that stores VOD programs (column 6, line 38-45), video server 12 receives video requests from users (column 7, lines 28-55) retrieves the requested video from the video library 10 and passes it on to the network interface which in turn transfers it to the user's receiver 22, each video event or stream is assigned its own set of memory buffers for the temporary storage and synchronization of the video data, the data is retrieved from disks 10 and stored in main storage unit 38 prior to transmission (column 7, line 45-55, column 9, lines 2-57), the video servers may support multiple titles for transmission to multiple users (column 11, line 58-column 12, line 6).

Regarding claim 7, Baker discloses that video server 12 performs subscriber accounting and bills a subscriber for a VOD program request (column 7, lines 33-51).

Art Unit: 2611

Regarding claim 8, Baker discloses in Figure 1, a Video on Demand system in which a transaction server (VOD server 12) is connected to a video library 10 that stores VOD programs (column 6, line 38-45), video server 12 receives video requests from users (column 7, lines 28-55) retrieves the requested video from the video library 10 and passes it on to the network interface which in turn transfers it to the user's receiver 22, (column 7, line 45-55, column 9, lines 2-57).

Baker does not disclose a plurality of video servers coupled to the transaction server or a middleware environment.

Otani discloses in Figures 1 and 2, a number of VOD servers 40-m which are coupled to request control unit 50 via cable 70 which processes requests from user set top boxes and turns on power to more VOD servers when needed (column 5, lines 16-36, column 6, lines 16-57, column 7, line 39-column 8, line 9).

The examiner takes official notice that the use of middleware to enable two separate applications to exchange data between one another via a 3rd set of software is well known in the art.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Baker to include multiple VOD servers coupled to a transaction server as taught by Otani in order to reduce the server load, by powering on additional servers when needed, and to utilize middleware to enable the transaction server applications to interface with the VOD server applications in order to enable access to the user billing records.

Art Unit: 2611

Regarding claim 9, Baker discloses that the transaction server may spool the video (column 7, line 45-55) and that the format can be MPEG 2 (column 7, lines 9-16).

Regarding claim 10, Baker discloses that video server 12 may be a Unisys mainframe system (column 8, lines 43-51).

Regarding claim 11, Baker discloses in Figure 1, a Video on Demand system which supplies a video program to a subscriber receiver 22, a transaction server (VOD server 12) is connected to a video library 10 that stores VOD programs (column 6, line 38-45), video server 12 receives video requests from users (column 7, lines 28-55) retrieves the requested video from the video library 10 and passes it on to the network interface which in turn transfers it to the user's receiver 22, each video event or stream is assigned its own set of memory buffers for the temporary storage and synchronization of the video data, the data is retrieved from disks 10 and stored in main storage unit 38 prior to transmission (column 7, line 45-55, column 9, lines 2-57), the video servers may support multiple titles for transmission to multiple users (column 11, line 58-column 12, line 6).

Regarding claim 12, Baker discloses that a subscriber receives the VOD program on a receiver (decoder 22, column 8, lines 18-41).

Regarding claim 13, Baker discloses that video server 12 acts as a transaction gateway (column 7, lines 28-55, Figure 4, column 10, line 64-column 11, line 22).

Regarding claim 14, Baker discloses that video server 12 processes subscriber transactions (column 7, lines 36-55).

Art Unit: 2611

Regarding claim 15, Baker discloses that video server 12 is a Unisys mainframe (column 8, lines 42-48).

Regarding claim 16, Baker discloses in Figure 1, a Video on Demand system which supplies a video program to a subscriber receiver 22, a transaction server (VOD server 12) is connected to a video library 10 that stores VOD programs (column 6, line 38-45), video server 12 receives video requests from users (column 7, lines 28-55) retrieves the requested video from the video library 10 and passes it on to the network interface which in turn transfers it to the user's receiver 22, each video event or stream is assigned its own set of memory buffers for the temporary storage and synchronization of the video data, the data is retrieved from disks 10 and stored in main storage unit 38 prior to transmission (column 7, line 45-55, column 9, lines 2-57), the video servers may support multiple titles for transmission to multiple users (column 11, line 58-column 12, line 6).

Regarding claim 17, Baker discloses that the VOD stream may be paused in response to a viewer command (column 12, lines 7-17).

Regarding claim 18, Baker discloses that the VOD stream may be rewound in response to a viewer command (column 12, lines 7-17).

Regarding claim 19, Baker discloses in Figure 8, that a user make issue a forward request 132 (column 16, lines 5-9).

Regarding claim 20, Baker discloses that video server 12 performs subscriber accounting and bills a subscriber for a VOD program request (column 7, lines 33-51).

Art Unit: 2611

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- U.S. Patent 5,873,022 to Huizer: Method of Receiving Compressed Video Signals Using a Latency Buffer During Pause and Resume.
- U.S. Patent 5,768,881 to Dan: Channel Conservation for Anticipated Load Surge in Video Servers.
- U.S. Patent 6,052,555 to Ferguson: Method for Speeding MPEG Encoding using JPEG Pre-Processing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hunter B. Lonsberry whose telephone number is 703-305-3234. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Page 9

Application/Control Number: 09/304,406

Art Unit: 2611

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HBL

VIVEK SRIVASTAVA PRIMARY EXAMINER